



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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District Man Found Guilty of Premeditated Murder of Off-duty D.C. Fireman

WASHINGTON - A 40-year-old District of Columbia man, Eugene Pugh, has been found guilty of the murder of off-duty District of Columbia fireman Michael Holmone in 2007, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced today.

Late yesterday afternoon, a Superior Court jury found Pugh, of the 3600 of Jay Street, NE, Washington, D.C., guilty of first degree premeditated murder while armed and a related weapons offense, following a jury trial before the Honorable Frederick Weisberg of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Sentencing is scheduled for July 17, 2009. Pugh faces a mandatory minimum of 30 years in prison.

The government's evidence at trial showed that on May 11, 2007, Michael Holmone was in the 3500 block of Jay Street, NE, in what is known as the Paradise/Mayfair neighborhood. Holmone grew up in the neighborhood and was back there visiting friends. At around 9:00 p.m., Holmone was outside enjoying the nice weather and watching some of his friends play cards, when Eugene Pugh walked up and shot him three times, twice in the back and once in the hip, and then ran away. One of the bullets ripped through Michael Holmone's heart. Life saving efforts performed at the scene and at Prince George's County Hospital Center failed, and Mr. Holmone was pronounced dead at 9:45 p.m.

Eugene Pugh was arrested six days later, on May 17, 2007. While he was incarcerated at the D.C. Jail pending trial, Pugh confessed to another inmate and also threatened to have people kill someone who he believed was a government witness. The inmate informed a D.C. Superior Court judge, his lawyer, and then the U.S. Attorney's Office about the defendant's confession and his threats against the potential government witness.

In announcing the jury's verdict, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Taylor commended the following Metropolitan Police Department officers and detectives for their excellent work on the case: lead Detective Brian Kasul, Detectives Dan Lewis, Earl Delauder, Daniel Whalen, Manuel Gaffney, Milton Norris, Brian Waid, William Xanten, Gail Brown, Brian Wise,

Dwayne Corbett, and Andrea Latson, Sergeant Daniel Wagner, Officers Duncan Bedlion, Johnnie Barnes, Dwayne Mitchell, Natasha Pettus, Amber Chesla, Grant Greenwalt, David Murray, Jeffrey McLaughlin, Jarlath Cady, William Dempster, and Mark Lakomec, and Crime Scene Technicians Moctema Stevens, Toni Nwani and Natasha Pettus. He also praised the work of Paralegals Lynette Briggs and Marian Russell, Victim/Witness Security Specialist Maretta (“Laverne”) Forrest, Victim/Witness Advocate Marcia Rinker, and Litigation Services Specialist Thomas (“Ron”) Royal. Finally, U.S. Attorney Taylor praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorneys David Gorman and Michelle Jackson, who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Alessio Evangelista, who indicted and tried the case.

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